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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/716,628

11/20/2003

James T. Stenberg

87326.5000

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10/13/2004

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EXAMINER

VU, HIEN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/716,628

Applicant(s)

STENBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5, 8-10 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 6-7 and 11-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. Claims 1-20 and 23 are objected to because in claim 1, line 3, "the U-link element" and line 6, "the U-link" lack an antecedent basis claims 3, 6, 14 and 15, the feature "said spring" lack an antecedent basis, claims 3,6,14 and 15 appear to be dependent from claim 2; claim 23, line 3, it is unclear what "it" is referred to.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

3. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schiitzle et al.

The disclosure of Schiitzle shows the invention as claimed. For example: Figs. 3 & 6a-b show a plunging and rotation rod 8 attached to patch panel 7 and an U-link system 1, a latch finger (not labeled) at a first end of the rod 8, a second end of the rod read as the recited handle, a guide mechanism 5, and a catch fitting 48 attached to the patch panel 7.

As to claim 4, rims at sides of the U-link read as the recited support.

As to claim 5, an aperture 30 in the guide mechanism.

As to claims 8-10, accurate grooves in sides of the aperture read as the recited first and second fittings or slots.

As to claims 16-17, the second end of the rod 8 read as the recited handle.

As to claims 18-20, the catch fitting 48 attached to the patch panel 7 by a bolt 44.

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As to claim 21, the mechanism with means recited in claim 21 substantially corresponding to the mechanism of claim 1, therefore, it is rejected under the similar rationale.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiitzle et al in view of Kane.

Schiitzle does not explicitly disclose the means for accommodating a multiplicity of U-link orientations on the patch panel. Kane, figs. 1 & 2 show means 12 for accommodating a multiplicity of connector orientations on a panel 14. it would have been obvious to modify the connector of Schiitzle by provides means for accommodating a plurality of U-link orientations on the patch panel as taught by Kane, in order to allow more than one U-link to be mounted on the patch panel.

As to claim 23, the method steps of claim 23 substantially corresponding to the connector of claim 1 therefore, it is rejected under the similar rationale. Also it is noted that a radio frequency signal path is not positively recited therefore, it would have been obvious to use the mechanism of Schiitzle for a component from a radio frequency signal path since such mechanism is more reliable.

7. Lee, Parcel et al, Killian, Jr and Muzslay are cited for disclosure of electrical connectors having latch means.

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8. Claims 2, 7, 11, 12, 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien Vu at telephone number (571) 272-2016.

Vu/ds

09/24/04



**HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**